



A Project of the
Government of the
Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
in Collaboration with the
Inter-American Development Bank.

Citizen Security Programme, Trinidad & Tobago
presented by gsloane-seale@mns.gov.tt





4 NEWS

GUARDIAN | Saturday, March 18, 2006

Police: Murder rate like urban guerilla warfare

ROBERT ALONZO

HOMICIDE investigators have described the current wave of killings taking place in T&T as a type of "urban guerilla warfare".

A senior investigator, angry with the low murder detection rate, said the time has come for detectives to examine and find out why criminals were behaving so violently.

He said: "We (the police) are dealing with the symptoms (the murders) rather than the cause."

He said killings were now so "deep-seated" that Government needs to hire the services of psychologists and sociologists to go into the remand yard and high-risk areas to interview gangsters.

He believes that this would assist

in unearthing the root cause of crime and criminal activities.

The senior officer said certain people were no longer reporting crimes committed against them by others.

Instead, he added, people were now settling their own scores by looking for their own justice.

He recalled that once, while interrogating a gangster, he was told (by the gangster) that "justice comes from the barrel of a gun."

He said although the Police Homicide Bureau was revamped last year, and more than 61 experienced crime fighters joined the unit, investigators were having difficulties keeping up with murder investigations.

The move to beef-up the homicide squad was part of the Prof Stephen Mastrofski plan.

The officer said Mastrofski's \$5-million crime plan did not include the identification of psychological life styles and behaviour of criminals.

Referring to his description of "urban guerilla warfare" in T&T, the source said homicide officers were busy each day removing bullet-riddled bodies.

Most murders due to gang violence

One Assistant Police Commissioner said young men were killing each other just to control turf and rank, and the police cannot persuade them to drop their weapons and resolve their differences.

He, too, said it was now evident that rival gang members were set-

ting their differences among themselves.

He said gang violence was responsible for approximately 98 per cent of the killings. He said the other two were domestic and isolated cases.

He said the majority of gang-related killings were taking place in high-risk areas in East Port-of-Spain, Laventille, Morvant and parts of west Trinidad.

There were 82 murders up to yesterday afternoon, 10 more than the corresponding period last year.

Of the 82 murders, police have only solved 12.

Already for this year there has been a 20 per cent increase.

Police recorded a total of 384 murders last year, while there were 260 in 2004.

MURDER WATCH

82 murders in 76 days

There have been 82 murders in the first 76 days of this year. Police say they have solved 12 homicides. That's 14.6 per cent. In the corresponding period last year, police solved 22.2 per cent of the killings.

Jan 1 - Mar 17 '05 '06
Murders 72 .. 82
Cases solved .. 16 ... 12

Source: Police

Murders by months 2006

Jan 1 - Jan 31
38 murders

Feb 1 - Feb 28
20 murders

Mar 1 - Mar 17
24 murders

Total: 82



Objective

Crime and violence reduction through community based prevention strategies focusing on children and youth

Assumptions of the Donors & Policy makers

- Local capacity is insufficient
- Money can solve the issues
- Human behaviour change responds well to established time frames and deadlines
- Stakeholders will cooperate on common goals.
- That communities have common needs and values
- Policies are sufficient to motivate change and will translate into implementation

Perceptions of Recipients of monies on the ground

- Quick implementation/results
- It should produce tangible results
- They should manage the funding
- That it doesn't always benefit those intended
- Does not represent their ideas & needs
- It will solve all their problems
- It will be continuous
- See it as an opportunity to improve their lives

Nature of Assistance

- Financial
- Preparatory Phase Funding (24 months)
- Loan for 5 year pilot 2008 - 2012
- Technical – study tours & access to knowledge base
- Multi faceted – Capacity building of
 1. government & non-government agencies
 2. TT Police Service
 3. Public education

Methodology

- Local Preparation & Implementation Unit
- Host stakeholder meeting to discuss crime and violence
- Communication plan developed and rolled out
- Collection and analysis of most recent data to establish partner communities
- Asset mapping of partner communities
- Develop inventory of available government & non-governmental social services
- Conduct baseline crime & victimization survey
- Community safety assessments
- Stakeholder analysis of intervention strategies
- Develop programme implementation and monitoring and evaluation proposal
- Roll out intervention strategies

Main Theme Areas

- Child Maltreatment
- Domestic Violence
- Gun related violence
- Juvenile Delinquency

Observations

- Team having prior experience in local developmental work reduced lag time
- 24 month preparation time allowed for relationship building between PPIU and communities
- Stakeholder's inputs are foundation of programme creating more trusting relationships
- Collaborative approach with other agencies has reduced lag time.
- Quick impact projects promoted relationship building
- External Funding is nimble which made for quick action on the ground and early buy in from stakeholders



To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents and to live now as we think human beings should live in defiance of all that is bad around us is, in itself a marvelous victory.

Howard Zinn